

THE SOUTH.

POLITICS IN VIRGINIA.

Democrats, Whigs and Conservative Republicans to Combine.

APPROXIMATIONS IN WEST VIRGINIA AND TENNESSEE.

By Special Correspondence of the Herald.

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will invest largely, it is understood, in mineral lands in the section of country which they have just visited.

From Richmond to Gordonsville—Appearance of the Country—Traces of the War—State of the White and Colored Populations—Notes on the Colored Vote—What Side Will Be Cast For, &c.

GORDONSVILLE, Va., May 26, 1867.

The ride from Richmond to Gordonsville, over the Virginia Central Railroad, is about as very sorry traveling.

Like most of the roads at present in the South, and bridges, united to an unimproved slowness of progression in the locomotive department, that render railroad travel south of Mason and Dixon's line a bore to tourists and a barrier to exploration.

The Northern stranger, after boarding one of these Southern trains, is first struck by the interior meanness of the cars, for which, however, allowance can be made in the impoverished state of the people, and is afterwards less agreeably impressed with the harsh oscillations from side to side which keep his humanity in a turmoil of perpetual motion.

What will propose in Congress the "reconstruction" of Southern railroads? might be the exclamation of one less interested in political theories than in the advancement of the material comfort of the traveling public.

As the dirty and decaying shanties, that extend beyond the depot and mark the limits of Richmond, passed from view the lubberly locomotive appeared to put on her every inch of steam, and make a frantic effort to excel the speed of a stage coach.

But on and on, with Mechanicville to the right, across the densest of cotton fields, and away to Heaven, in the distance, our train kept the even, gay tempo of her way.

At last, after what seemed an hour, in making a fresh start, gave a violent jerk to the whole string of cars, administering at the same time an electric shock to the frame and fibres of each individual passenger; but no visible advance of speed could be detected.

On the contrary, as she approached her destination, there were evident symptoms of exhaustion. However, this prudent rate of locomotion enabled me to see, without being troubled with any optical illusions, the state of crops and country all the way to this poor but beautiful town.

After passing the Chickahominy fields of wheat pressing themselves to the horizon, the country was widely diversified, and those which showed themselves either standing near the railroad right and upright, or peeping out from the great growths of the forest, were of neglect and poverty.

Great straggling patches of wheat were of frequent occurrence as far as Louisiana Court House in the distance, very spacious and airy, and sprouting freely. In the neighborhood of Wickham's Station the appearance of everything looked more cheering, the soil, under deep depression and bolder elevations, far as the eye could reach, was dotted with patches of green, but full ears were interspersed with patches of wood.

The farm houses looked like the olden times, and the country was everywhere nowhere to be seen. Occasionally a dismantled farm that had done the State some service, and which was now a ruin, was to be seen, and a few white, lowly looking and modest. Occasionally a negro woman might be observed, a miserable patch of cotton, and the country was everywhere nowhere to be seen.

The general appearance of the country along the line was that of a thinly peopled, semi-cultivated, though not uncultivated, country.

At noon we came in sight of Gordonsville, partly sunken in a hollow and partly encircled by railway embankments, from which there sprang away in successfully rising lines the groves of luxuriant tobacco, dotted with trees and houses, and forming the prettiest of landscapes.

As the train drew up by the platform, a swarm of male and female darkeys, the former cracking whips, ringing bells and yelling for hotels, while the latter, in the most unbecoming manner, were endeavoring to get on the train.

One unattractive fellow, with a huge pot on his head in front of his hat, rattled away to the delight of a crowd of woolly headed picnicians, and the whole scene was a most unbecoming one.

At the hotel, which was a small, one story building, the attention of the colored citizens of Gordonsville, "O yes," was the reply, "they've been doing right smart work for the last few days."

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tunnel, 'T' for crossed them under Stonewall and Early fifty times at least." We were in the tunnel as he spoke, and his deep bass voice was drowned in the deafening clatter. When we emerged I found, after a few readily answered inquiries, that his name was Captain Perry, formerly of Stonewall Jackson's brigade. As we progressed on our journey he rattled away with a narrative of his own part in the great rebel chief's campaigns, and though he often "darned" the Blue Ridge Mountains, he still looked with an interest and at times delighted eye up at the lofty peaks and ridges where a hasty bivouac was often held in the stirring days of the confederacy.

"Well, Captain, how do you feel on the turn things have taken?"

"Can't say I feel rejoiced, but I'm satisfied. I accept this conqueror's lot as not so bad, against their grain, as it were, as if conscious of being still unwhipped, but with a hearty resignation to the change which I cannot help, and with a determination to work harder to restore than I ever did to destroy the Union."

"How do you find the colored people working in your section (Rockbridge county)?"

"Very well indeed. I have travelled through Louisa, Orange, Albemarle, Nelson, Augusta and half a dozen other counties, and one thing has struck me chiefly—the wonderful good sense of the negroes in quickly adapting themselves to the new order of things, working almost everywhere as steadily as any other laborers, and educating themselves for citizenship—wonderful, really, in the negro."

"And you find them working as steadily as any other laborers, and educating themselves for citizenship—wonderful, really, in the negro."

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